Cleveland Jobs with Justice
24th Annual Event

Summer Celebration
Honoring Essential Workers

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

May you be proud of the person you are, the work you have done, and the difference you make.
Honoring Essential Workers - Superheroes

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021
Welcome Friends and Supporters …

Cleveland Jobs with Justice has been the unified voice fighting for economic and social justice throughout Cuyahoga County and Northeast Ohio for over the last twenty-four years.

This year, we honor Essential Workers, the workers who remained working on the front lines during the pandemic. Unfortunately, many of these workers did not receive hazard pay or extra time off for continually putting their health in jeopardy and working in stressful conditions over this last year. We are inviting workers from several sectors who provided invaluable services that kept the rest of us safe. They will be talking about how they were impacted during COVID.

This will also be the first year for the Sue Brown Special Lifetime Achievement Award for women in labor and activism. Our first recipient will be Harriet Applegate, who, before her retirement, was the Labor Co-Chair of Cleveland Jobs with Justice while serving as the North Shore AFL-CIO Executive Secretary. Harriet was the first woman in Ohio elected to that position at the AFL-CIO.

Thank you for taking the time to join us in honoring Essential Workers!

Rev. Sala Nolan Gonzales, Chair
Deb Kline, Director

Executive Committee Members:

Larry Bresler, Mark Milko, Dan O’Malley and Maria Wilkinson

Special thank you’s…

… Linda Hinton and the staff at CWA District 4 - the home of Cleveland Jobs with Justice

… Todd Smith, Cleveland Federation of Musicians Local 4 for providing our entertainment

… Leonard DiCosimo, Cleveland Federation of Musicians Local 4 for being our Emcee

….To you, our volunteers!
Cleveland Jobs with Justice Summer Celebration
24th Annual Event

Welcome & Opening Remarks
Master of Ceremonies, Leonard DiCosimo

Honoring Essential Workers
Rita Kinards, Sandra Ellington, DJ Lockett, Beatriz Maya, Jim Stillson, and Rene Liston

Presentation of the Sue Brown Lifetime Achievement for Women in Labor Award
Harriet Applegate
Sue Brown - Imagine the kindest, most giving, unassuming soul in the world, and Sue Brown’s smiling face pops up. Sue was a Union Rep for UNITE-HERE [now Workers United] and a dedicated Executive Committee member of Cleveland Jobs with Justice. Her union career was distinguished by her deep caring for all of the workers she represented. Her concern for their welfare knew no bounds, and her interest in their lives was genuine. Unlike so many committed union reps whose approach to their charges could sometimes be patronizing, Sue so identified with her members that she became close friends with many. This made her an extremely successful union rep because her members totally trusted her and, by extension, the union and gave her commitment to representation a greatly appreciated personal touch.

After her work with the union, Sue joined the staff of the United Labor Agency, where she ran the UCAN training program for union members. Her proficiency at planning and developing the ten-week program, combined with her warmth and empathy, made it the best program ever.

Sue left us way too soon but will always remain in the hearts of the many she loved.
**Essential Workers:**

**Rita Kinards** is a proud member of Workers United who works as an Essential Worker in housekeeping at the Intercontinental Hotel Suites. The Intercontinental Hotel Suites (IHS) is the facility the Cleveland Clinic used to house the doctors and nurses that contracted COVID during the pandemic's peak. At the time, the IHS gave the employees a choice to go out or continuing working; she needed the income, so Rita chose to stay. She is also the proud parent of one son and two dogs.

**Sandra Ellington** has been a member of SEIU local 1 for 20 years. She is an Essential Worker for the City of Cleveland at Hopkins international airport and is an SEIU Shop Steward. She is also the Executive Chair at Local 1, representing any member in the City of Cleveland that is under a Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**DJ Lockett,** a member of AFSCME Local 1746, was born August 17, 1977, in Las Vegas, Nevada; her mother moved to Cleveland when she was three years old. She graduated from Cleveland Heights High School when she was just 16 years old and went on to Fisk University, Ursuline College, Notre Dame College, & finally, Cleveland State University. She describes herself as a semi-satisfied Essential Worker of Cuyahoga County at the Department of Jobs and Family Services. She is the owner of Lyfeproductz LLC, a small family-owned health and wellness company that provides sea moss in various forms. DJ would like everyone to know that her most significant accomplishments revolve around being the mother to five amazing human beings and the grandmother to one.

**Beatriz Maya** is the co-founder and Executive Director of La Conexion, a grassroots community-based organization working in the NW Ohio region. La Conexion was established by Latinxs in 2013 as a vehicle to empower the Latinx and recent immigrant community for positive social change. The organization works in the areas of capacity building, immigrant integration, and social change. Maya is an immigrant from Argentina who learned her first steps in the struggle for justice as a part of the resistance movement against the military dictatorship in her native country. Prior to La Conexion, Maya worked for over 15 years for the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC). She won the Alston-Bannerman award for minority organizers in 2006 for her work on immigrant rights. Maya holds a Masters degree in Political Science from the University of Connecticut and currently lives in Bowling Green, Ohio.
Essential Workers:

Jim Stilson, age 55, was born in Maple Heights and is a graduate of Maple Heights High School. He is the divorced father of two grown children, James and Nicole. He currently lives in Sagamore Hills and lives with his life's love and former high school prom date, Michelle. While he has taken many different career paths over the years, his currently a member of UFCW Local 880 and is an Essential Worker as a Class A CDL truck driver for Harvest Sherwood Food. He hopes to make this his last job and be able to retire after 20 years of service. Jim was appointed as the Union Steward for the drivers in January 2020. This date is significant since the world found itself in the middle of this pandemic several months later, and he has been diligently representing his members during COVID.

Renee Liston, RN, a member of the Ohio Nurses Association (ONA), graduated with honors from Stark State Nursing College in 2011. She has worked as an Essential Worker as a Registered Nurse at the Cleveland Clinic Akron General since 2013. She worked on the Neuroscience Unit for the last six years, which became the Covid Unit in March 2020. She recently transferred to the Emergency Department, the only Level 1 Trauma center in the Cleveland Clinic Enterprise. Renee has three grown children, one of which is also an RN in the Emergency Department. She lives in Canton with her dogs and cats and enjoys spending time with her kids, hiking, camping, and home improvement projects.
Congratulations

Harriet Applegate

Recipient of the
Sue Brown Special Lifetime
Achievement Award

-and-

Honoring
All Essential Workers

Thank you for your tireless work and
activism on behalf of working men and women

CWA

Linda L. Hinton, Vice President
Communications Workers of America
District 4
20525 Center Ridge Road, Room 700
Rocky River, Ohio 44116
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Congratulations to Harriett Applegate for her dedication to the Labor Movement and achieving the Sue Brown Award.

Effective January 1, 2021, Schwarzwald McNair & Fusco LLP became Fusco Gallagher Porcaro & Monroe LLP.

The Firm is pleased to continue its support for Cleveland Job with Justice.
United Food & Commercial Workers
Union Local 880

Carl Ivka
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Jeff and Karen Rechenbach
Sala Nolan Gonzales
Nora Kelley
Congratulations to our former Executive Secretary Harriet Applegate for receiving the inaugural Sue Brown Lifetime Achievement Award!

North Shore AFL-CIO

Daniel J. O’Malley, Executive Secretary

Darryll Bell, American Federation of Government Employees Local 81, President

Shari Obrzudski, Cleveland Teachers Union Local 279, Chair of the Board

Leonard DiCosimo, American Federation of Musicians Local 4, Treasurer
Congratulations and Best Wishes to Harriet Applegate on her Retirement! From The NCALF
Cleveland Jobs with Justice is a coalition of labor, community and faith based organizations working together to promote workers’ rights in the Cleveland area through collective action.